

- 12 -

**CLAIMS**

1. Process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said oral composition comprising from 5 to 60% by weight  
5 calcium carbonate as abrasive, said method characterised by the preparation of a slurry which comprises substantially all of the ingredients present in said oral composition followed by the addition of a thickening mixture to form said oral composition.  
10
2. Process according to claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a polymeric thickening mixture selected from carboxyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl  
15 carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenin, gum tragacanth, xanthan gum, guar gum, alginates, bentonite and other natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays.
3. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the  
20 thickening mixture comprises flavour at from 0.001 to 100% by weight of the final composition.
4. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the  
25 thickening mixture comprises surfactant.
5. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a fluoride ion source.
6. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the  
30 thickening mixture comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight

- 13 -

of the oral composition.

- 5 7. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate.
8. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a humectant.
- 10 9. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a thickening silica.
10. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises dispersant.
- 15 11. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a fluoride ion source.
12. Process according to any preceding claim, wherein the slurry is prepared by adding calcium carbonate to a water/humectant mixture.
- 20 13. A continuous process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said method characterised by the following steps:
- 25 (a) preparation of an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate;

- 14 -

- (b) optional addition of further ingredients to said suspension;
- (c) optional de-aeration of said suspension;
- 5 (d) addition of thickening mixture;
- (e) mixing of said suspension and thickening mixture;
- 10 (f) standing for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes or for long enough for the thickening mixture to hydrate;
- (g) mixing for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes.